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Final reflection student sample

While I have always given great consideration to multiple perspectives and have tried to make sure that my worldview lacks biases and strives for nuance I can never honestly say that my worldview is complete. After Reading *I am Malala* I was once again reminded of the shortcomings of my own perspective.

Malala Yousafzai is an 18 year old activist who at the age of 11 started a blog that advocated for women's right to an education in Taliban governed Pakistan. She was ultimately punished for her courage to speak out for education as she was shot in the head at 14 years old by the Taliban. After returning from the brink of death Malala continued to speak out for women's rights to an education despite several death threats made against her and her father. She has since written two books one of which being the aforementioned *I am Malala* which received universal praise and has won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Malala's story serves as an inspiration to anyone who doesn't believe they can change the world. There has been a movement of cynicism and apathy surrounding what is often dismissively referred to as "internet activism". Malala proves that the internet can be as effective if not more effective than any platform preceding it if it is utilized by someone with the passion and courage that she has. That is to say that if a speaker and/or a cause is captivating enough it demands a level of consideration that transcends the media it is presented on. A bias towards

sensationalism, laziness, and lack of nuance is not specific to any group of people, any era, or any media platform. We have seen through history that people are susceptible to fall victim to the seductiveness of sensationalism and these examples predate the internet by centuries.

Each and every tool we utilize is met with criticism and is often coupled with claims of its role in destroying the moral fabric of the generation that coincides with it, the current rise in technology is no different. Malala however, exemplifies the reason why these strides in technology are incredible tools that work in service of our society. If it were not for Malala's blog her message may have never been heard in a society that is so oppressive to women. I think perhaps it is time we come to embrace technology for what it is, and that is an incredible platform and resource for enacting social change.